

Walking & Bicycling Questionnaire for Candidates

This Walking & Biking Questionnaire for State Candidates was developed by Hawaii Bicycling League, Kauai Path, Maui Bicycling League, and PATH - Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawaii to address current state issues of importance for walking and bicycling. Your responses will be made available online and distributed to our organizations' email networks. Your response will NOT be used as the basis for any endorsements. Your response will be displayed verbatim as you provide. Please respond by July 11, 2018. Late responses will be accepted and will be posted as promptly as practical.

Thank you!

Hawaii Bicycling League

Kauai Path

Maui Bicycling League

PATH - Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawaii

Name *

Rep. Gene Ward

Candidate for *

House District 17: Hawaii Kai

Email *

repward@gmail.com

1. I believe that walking and bicycling should be safe transportation options available to all and we need to drastically reduce injuries and deaths of people who walk and bike. (YES or NO, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments?

30,000 to 40,000 deaths per year on US Highways is a sad statement about our safety concerns at the national level. The number of crosswalk deaths in Hawaii is as equally alarming but can be prevented. Crosswalk illumination, flashing lights and enlarged signage are very effective, but the DOT and DTS have chosen not to use these cost-effective solutions on a large scale.

2. Hawaii received \$178 million in federal transportation funds in 2018, while only 2% of this amount is reserved for walking and bicycling projects, the state Department of Transportation has the option to use larger portions of these funds for walking and bicycling projects. I support increased use of Hawaii's federal transportation funding allocations for bicycle and pedestrian projects to make walking and bicycling safer. (YES or No, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments

I voted for the DOT's plan to fund bikeways many many years ago.

3. The state Department of Transportation's 2003 Bike Plan Hawaii provides a plan for development of a network of bicycle facilities to enable those of all ages to cycle for transportation. The plan has not been fully implemented. I support the immediate updating of this 15-year-old plan in order to integrate new bikeway planning practices and make it more applicable to current conditions. (YES or No, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments

A no-brainer, times have changed; millenials are foregoing driver's licenses!

4. Eighty-one percent of Hawaii commuters drive as their primary way of getting to work and 12% walk, bike, or take public transportation. I support the establishment of specific targets to reduce dependence on private automobile transportation and increase bicycling, walking and transit use, as Kauai County has done. *

Yes

No

Comments

Hopefully these percentages will increase along the rail line corridors if development rights are allocated correctly.

5. Vision Zero is a government commitment to achieve zero traffic fatalities tied with a comprehensive approach and specific actions in engineering, enforcement, and education. I support the adoption of a "Vision Zero" policy at the state level and development of a comprehensive plan with specific actions to achieve zero traffic fatalities. (YES or No, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments

I was the first in the Hawaii State Legislature to introduce legislation to permit DRIVERLESS CARS in Hawaii. This will prove to be the biggest life-saver of all!

6. Red light and speed enforcement cameras have been proven to improve traffic safety for all roadway users (motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians) by reducing incidents of red light and speed violations. I support the implementation of red light and speed enforcement cameras at high injury intersections and corridors and in school zones. *

Yes

No

Comments

Another no brainer, except for the 'hang over' some people have from the "Van Cams" scandal in the early 2000's. Red light cameras are inevitable and should be piloted at some benign locations to get the public used to it. People are running red lights nowadays with reckless abandon. This is the one bill that Joe Souki and I strongly backed on a bi-partisan basis.

7. Describe ways that you have supported safer walking and bicycling in your community. (short answer) *

I worked with the Bicycle League during the widening of Kalaniana'ole Highway and made sure there were sufficient size bike lanes included in the new highway's design from Hawaii Kai to Ainakoa Street. Chad will also remember my office's response to keeping gravel and other hazards from the construction trucks and crews off the bike lanes during the construction period. This past support is a harbinger of my future support for bike lanes in Hawaii.

8. The State has the Bike Plan Hawaii (2003) and the Statewide Pedestrian Master Plan (2013) for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. What will you do when elected to implement these plan? (short answer) *

Work with the DOT and DTS to make sure they 1) understand it; 2) have the funds to implement it; and 3) educate the public and maintain it.

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